

MEDIA RELEASE

New cars bring new learning opportunities



World's
Best
Practice

Automotive students at South West TAFE will be learning from the latest car technology following the donation of two new Holden vehicles.

The cars have been donated by Holden through the Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce (VACC) Automotive Industry Donation Program.

The pilot Holden VE SS-V station wagon and Holden Cruze that runs on common rail diesel will give the South West TAFE automotive department its first major upgrade of vehicles in a decade.

South West TAFE senior educator – automotive, Ross Johnstone, said the new cars were a great incentive for students and a benefit for local industry.

“This gives us access to the latest technology. It updates our resources and helps us to work more closely with industry and provide relevant training to apprentices,” Mr Johnstone said.

“The industry will appreciate having apprentices learning on modern vehicles,” Mr Johnstone said.

South West TAFE has formed a strong relationship with VACC and Holden. The automotive department has also formed a local industry advisory group, the first of its type in Victoria.

“VACC was impressed by how proactive we are with the industry advisory group and it is 100 per cent behind us as we strive to get better outcomes for students,” Mr Johnstone said.

Mr Johnstone said it was at least 10 years since South West TAFE had received a donated vehicle, which was also from Holden.

“It’s great for us to have such strong relationships with VACC, Holden and our local automotive industry which enables us to source this sort of equipment,” Mr Johnstone said.

“We’ve got to continue to drive forward and get the latest technology for students,” he said.

“The students will be working on current model vehicles which will help them to move into the next stage of the evolution of the motor industry.

Mr Johnstone said the course simulated faults in vehicles for students to diagnose and report on. “By having this equipment, we are now able to have the students learn on relevant modern vehicles. These vehicles are perfect for what we do.”



1300 648 911 | www.swtafe.vic.edu.au



South West TAFE acknowledges
the support of the
Victorian Government.

Mr Johnstone said South West TAFE would work with local industry to identify other pieces of equipment needed to get the best outcomes for apprentices and employers.

Callaghan Motors Dealer Principal Steve Callaghan said it was pleasing that VACC and Holden recognised the need to provide modern equipment to regional training centres.

“The only way for our apprentices and technicians to learn for the future is to work on modern cars,” Mr Callaghan said.

“Training needs to be relevant to industry and done locally as much as possible and therefore having modern cars is essential,” he added.

The cars are worth about \$70,000.

South West TAFE CEO Mark Fidge described the donation as a great example of TAFE’s connection to industry.

“This illustrates the success of our Industry Connect program which is bringing South West TAFE closer to local industry and the cars will be a positive addition for our students,” Mr Fidge said.

VACC devised and developed the Automotive Industry Donation Program which is a collaborative stakeholder project involving car companies, training providers and the automotive industry. Under the program car companies donate parts, components and vehicles to training providers, enabling apprentices to train on contemporary and relevant vehicles.

VACC Executive Director Geoff Gwilym said the automotive industry needs to attract and train more technicians and organisations such as South West TAFE are central to the automotive technical training resource equation.

“These places of learning are where students often first experience what our industry has to offer,” Mr Gwilym said.

“We thank Holden for its generous contribution and are confident students in Warrnambool and the surrounding area will benefit greatly from the Automotive Industry Donation Program.”

Mr Gwilym said the program was a great example of an industry-led initiative for a community outcome.

“Our motivation is to ensure automotive training is of the highest order and that Australia’s vehicles are as safe as possible,” he said.

<end of copy>

For more information please contact: Simone Cottee, Marketing and Corporate Communications
South West TAFE on 5564 8737 or simone.cottee@swtafe.vic.edu.au



1300 648 911 | www.swtafe.vic.edu.au



South West TAFE acknowledges
the support of the
Victorian Government.